77. Opening new roads and repairing the old ones, through the Public Works Department, for the use of cardamom cultivators.

Sahib Bahadur Sultan Ahamed Badrudin Rowther (Member, Devicolam Taluk) submitted that the cardamom and other ryots of the High Range experienced great difficulties for want of proper roads and urged the following works :—

(1) Opening of roads 9 feet wide from Periakanal estate to Bison Valley through Adinarayanan Parai and Kilavi Parai and thence to Lockhart Estate gap, from Bodimettu to Brahmanathi Kanal through Mulavarai, from Thondimalai to Muthukad through Anayirangal Tavalam.

(2) Widening the 6 feet path from Chakuluthu Mettu to Udumbanshola into 9 feet path.

(3) Constructing a new bridge over the Bial river on the way from Bodimettu to Devicolam, etc.

(4) Removal of the present suspension bridge in Anakkalpatti of Anjanad pakuthi and construction of a strong bridge quite fit for the passage of carts, cattle, etc.

78. Roads.

Mr. J. R. Vincent (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) pressed on the attention of Government the following works:—

(1) Maintenance of the Tekoy-Erattupetta road. The Member said that the decision of Government that the Tekoy estate should surrender the necessary lands for widening the road free of compensation could not be carried out by the estate, nor were they agreeable to have it converted into a grant-in-aid road, for the estate had already spent large sums of money on the road and, mainly, owing to the enterprise of the owners of the estate in cutting the road, the country had been opened up for cultivation. Further, throughout its whole length, both sides of the road were occupied by small land owners who had built fences and erected walls and who had raised cultivation. The road had thus become a public road. Should, however, Government decide to pay only a part of the upkeep of the road, the Member suggested that the other beneficiaries of the road, besides the Tekoy estate, be also made to pay their share of the contribution. In conclusion, he requested Government to take over the whole of the road, or, at least, from Erattupetta up to the confines of the estate as a public road, and also to acquire sufficient lands on both sides of the road to make it of the width desired by the Chief Engineer.

(2) Constructing a road from Cheruvalli to Vellanadi. Government had already called for an estimate for the road and the road had been surveyed twice and he understood that the local Executive Engineer had to make an inspection of the two alternative routes suggested. The Member requested that the work might be started at an early date.

The Member then thanked the Government for sanctioning an estimate for Rs. 10,700 for metalling the Rani-Manimala road and for allotting Rs. 5,000 therefor in the current year's P. W. D. budget.

In regard to the Kottayam-Mundakayam road, the Member pointed out that the traffic on the road had increased considerably during the last two years, that the metal used in certain places was too thin to allow of the use of heavy trailers and that as the road was of vital necessity to the two big planting districts of Mundakayam and Peermade, he requested Government to increase the grant so as to provide for the road a good bottoming and a thick crust of metal to withstand the increasingly heavy traffic on it.

Finally, the Member suggested the registering of bullock carts as it would then be possible to insist on all carts having thicker wheels, and as it would also effect a saving in the expenditure of the P. W. D. on the upkeep of the roads.

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